> Widespread deficiency of micronutrients is observed and soil analysis at regular intervals is being promoted to correct these deficiencies.

> Optimal use of natural resources spatially and temporarily for land use planning and development of infrastructure involving processing, value addition and market linkages is attempted using remote sensing, Geographic Information System and Indigenous Conservation Technology.

> Development of different commodity oriented Information Communication Technology enabled modules and capacity building of Self Help Groups and Community Based Organisations at cluster level are promoted.

> Technologies focused on rainwater management and livelihoods approach to watershed development.

> Energy management in dryland agriculture.

Agricultural growth rate

†780. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of agricultural growth in the last five years;

(b) the current agricultural growth rate;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is an agri-based country;

(d) if so, the reasons for agricultural growth rate not advancing; and

(e) the target fixed by Government to increase agricultural growth rate in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors at constant (1999-2000) prices in the last five years as well as in the current year (2007-08) is given as under:

Growth Rate in Agriculture and allied sectors (at constant 1999-2000 prices)

Year	Annual Gorwth Rate in Agricutlure & allied sectors
2002-03	-7.2 (%)
2003-04	10.0 (%)
2004-05	0.0 (%)
2005-06	5.9 (%)
2006-07	3.8 (%)
2007-08 (Q.E.)	2.6 (%)

Source: Central Statistical Organization Q.E.: Quick Estimates

(c) and (d) The agriculture sector contributes about 18.5 per cent of country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 10.7 per cent of total exports during 2006-07. As per Census 2001, agriculture sector provides employment to around 58.2 per cent of the workforce. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

agricultural growth rate is subject to fluctuations due to influence of a number of factors like monsoon, weather, water and quality of land among others.

(e) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has fixed a target growth rate of 4 per cent for the agriculture and allied sectors.

Recommendation of the CACP

781. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended MSP of Rs. 1,000 for rice for the forthcoming Kharif season;

(b) whether MSP for other agricultural products have been recommended by CACP;

(c) if so, the details of crops for which MSP has been recommended and the amount of MSP recommended, crop-wise;

(d) if so, what are the other recommendations made by the CACP;

(e) whether the recommendations made by the Commission and submitted to the Government; and

(f) if so, when the recommendations have been submitted and what action Government has taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) has submitted its Report on Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2008-09 season to the Government . Final decision regarding the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for the Kharif crops of 2008-09 season will be taken by the Government after obtaining the views of State Governments/UTs and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices.

Inclusion of more districts of Orissa under NFSM

782. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has requested the Centre for inclusion of four more districts under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for rice and three more districts for pulses, with a view to secure food security;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the time-frame within which the proposal of the State Government would be agreed to and sanction conveyed, if not already done?